



"where the river flows everything will live"

THE PARISH OF TIDENHAM (& St Briavels with Hewelsfield & Brockweir)

WEEKLY PARISH BRIEFING SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2020

Advent...

An alternative Advent Actions Calendar can be found with this briefing and on Facebook. There will be a Bible verse to mull over and a simple, manageable action/virtue for each of the days of December.

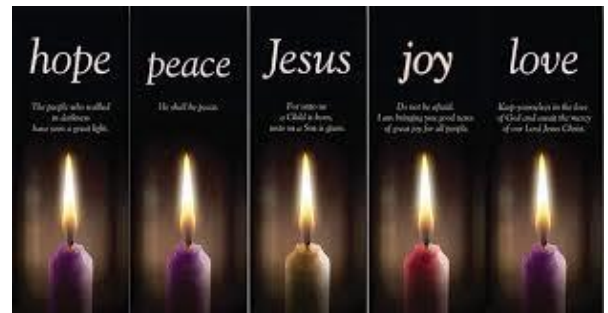


Christians celebrate the four weeks before Christmas as a time to reflect on the **first coming** of Jesus Christ; that is his birth. We also prepare for the final coming of Christ, traditionally called the **second coming**, at the end of all things.

Customarily in Christian tradition, the focus has only been on the first and second "comings" of Christ. However, I love the 11th Century St Bernard's description of a "**third coming**" which we also wait and prepare for i.e. **the coming of Christ in and to our own soul!**

Many of us, and many around the world are in a dark place at the current time. St Bernard's Advent understanding speaks clearly into this reality. Yes, God came to us in the person of Jesus Christ that first Christmas (the first coming), and God will come to us again at the end of all things (the second coming), but **God in Christ also comes to us with his light and life into the here and now!** The coming of the Lord is not just a celebration of the past or a hope for the future. Crucially, it's something for the present moment too!

Each Sunday during Advent we will light 3 purple candles and one pink candle on the Advent wreath which symbolise hope, peace, joy (that's the rose pink one) and love... that which Christ Jesus, the Light of the World, brings to our lives and to our world. The final candle centrally placed is white and is lit on Christmas Day representing Jesus, the Light of Life!



May Christ come to you and those you love over these days with his extraordinary presence.

God bless

Revd David Treharne

Vicar of Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut and Priest in Charge of St Briavels with Hewelsfield.

During the national lockdown we will be providing an online act of worship each Sunday on YouTube from 9am and hosting coffee at 11.30am via Zoom

The First Sunday of Advent, Sunday 29 November 2020.

Tidenham, St Briavels, Hewelsfield & Brockweir Advent Carol Service will be available to view on the Tidenham Parish Online Church YouTube channel from 9am on Sunday morning.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkRjOlvDBT9M9usfhp2722w>

The service is a compilation of music, readings and short pieces of liturgy filmed at the 5 church buildings in the 3 Parishes. Details will also appear on the Parish website (the 'News' tab) & Parish Facebook page.



Zoom Coffee - You are welcome join us for coffee after the service from 11.30am – bring your own refreshments! The link to join in the Zoom Meeting for the next 4 weeks is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87396556717?pwd=dkcrVHBzSnBXMk5PVnVKYWtkeEwyZz09>
Meeting ID: 873 9655 6717, Passcode: 555351

The Bible readings: Isaiah 64:1-9 & Mark 13:24-end



The Collect Advent Sunday:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Post Communion prayer:

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Morning Prayer 9am Mon-Fri on Zoom. <https://zoom.us/j/122778377>

Mid-Week Communion. A service of Holy Communion will be live streamed at 12noon on Wednesdays until the end of the lockdown. This will be available via the Tidenham Parish Church Facebook Group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/114300818701466/>

We are due to come out of lockdown next week, therefore services of Holy Communion will be on offer on Wednesday 2 Dec in St Luke's at 11am and 12noon. Please book a place with Clare.

Thursday Prayer for the Nation. You're invited to join together on Zoom to pray for the nation, Thursday 26 November at 6pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82874754685?pwd=SVdBZjBwaGYxRUZVSjIgdXdnBQL1ICUT09>

Meeting ID: 828 7475 4685, Passcode: 886057

Pioneer Project Prayer on Sunday 29th November at 4pm. You are invited to join Revd. Janice in a prayer meeting via zoom to pray for the pioneer project including The Well, Fareshare, Chaplaincy Chatroom, Sedbury Space and for the whole community.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81376698076?pwd=VFQ4UWVSM1g3ZnAxdTdtbkJqOGJvUT09>

St Luke's Church will be open for private prayer between 9am and 4pm Tuesday-Thursday

St Michael & All Angels' Church, Chase will be open for Private Prayer 9am-4pm on Saturdays

Hewelsfield Church will be open for Private Prayer 9-4pm

St Briavels Church will be open for Private Prayer 10-4pm

Parish News and Information

"Living life together in the flow of God's love."

Advent Trail - An advent trail will start on Friday 4th December. It will begin at Tutshill Memorial Hall and finish in St Luke's Churchyard. Children are welcome to paint a nativity character on a pebble and place it on the footpath leading to the church. More details and a trail map will be available on the facebook page;

www.facebook.com/Tutshill-Nativity-Trail or for more information please contact Jane on

cfmtidenham@btinternet.com, thank you.

Charitable Donations - Tidenham Parish Churches have donated to the following charities in the past on behalf of its parishioners' via the church collections. The PCC have provided bank details below of these charities if you wish to make a donation. Thank you

Crisis, Bank sort code: 16-00-30, Account number: 12011155

Tearfund, Bank sort code: 20-00-00, Account number: 53803058

Barnabus Fund, Bank sort code: 20-26-53, Account number: 50133299


Embrace the Middle East, Bank sort code: 60-11-01, Account number: 15540464

GARAS, Bank sort code: 40-22-09

Charity Cards for sale - I have a simple website 'Aquahen' where people can view the cards have designed and 100 % of the profits from the sale of my cards is donated to the Christian charity Tearfund.

You can order and pay using Etsy <https://aquahenart.wixsite.com/images> or contact me directly on 07731 511413 email melanie.walton@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you, Melanie.



 **Fairtrade** - The prize draw for orders from the Traidcraft catalogue will be December 5th. If you would like to order and enter the draw please contact Julia ASAP. A few items are out of stock, so order your Christmas cards and treats soon and avoid disappointment. Please call Julia on 622163 or for more information visit their website, <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/>. Thanks

Food Bank Christmas Gift Appeal - This Christmas is going to be particularly hard for many families who use the food bank. You can donate gift bags of treats for children and young people perhaps including stationary, toys, toiletries' or confectionery. For more information please contact Jane Penny cfmtidenham@btinternet.com or Sue Thompson 07712 938926 suzyt43079@aol.com
A separate box for donations will be in St Luke's Church porch until 4th December.

Financial Giving: For discussion and advice about electronic giving please contact Ewen on 01291 626158 or email ewen.hamilton@outlook.com



TIDENHAM PARISH ONLINE LINKS AND CONTACTS

Parish Website: This has information, documents and links to other sites. <https://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk>

Facebook page – all welcome to join and post comments. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/114300818701466/>

YouTube channel: 'Tidenham Parish Online Church' with videos to assist your devotions.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcRjOlVDBT9M9usfhp2722w>

Life Group meetings – please contact relevant people if you'd like to join in

- Sunday 7.30pm – for men! Online! James Parsons at James.darsie@gmail.com
- Tuesday 1pm - Life Group Online - Julia Parsons juliaparsons727@gmail.com
- Wednesday 10.30am (hopefully restarting soon) DTRevd@aol.com
- Wednesday 8pm. fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com
- Wednesday 8pm janice-hamilton@outlook.com
- Thursday 1pm - Life Group Online – Jane Penny cfmtidenham@btinternet.com

Revd David Treharne	01291 760034	dtrevd@aol.com
Revd Janice Hamilton	01291 626158	janice-hamilton@outlook.com
Revd Nicki Bullivant	07922 833835	benedictusnicki@gmail.com (Parish Day is Thursday)
Revd David Rees	01594 530443	david.rees17@btinternet.com
Revd Canon Dr Tom Clammer	01722 504938	tomclammer@gmail.com
Fiona Gardiner	01291 624868	fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com
James Parsons	07970 489362	james.darsie@gmail.com
Jane Penny	01594 563803	cfmtidenham@btinternet.com (urgent only Mon/Fri)
Ethan Richards	07933 249210	tidenhamyouth@gmail.com
Clare Presley (Admin)	01291 627478	tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com (Monday to Friday)
St Briavels & Hewelsfield website		www.stbandhchurches.org.uk

ADVENT ACTIONS: *cut into individual paragraphs, place in a bowl and pick one at random for each day in Advent*

'The true light that is the light for everyone was coming into the world.' John 1:9

Bring the light of God's love into somebody's life today by visiting, calling or taking them little gift or card.

'Be glad and rejoice with me!'

Philippians 2:18

How many things can you be really thankful for today? Write them down, be amazed and say a thank-you prayer.

'I thank my God for you every time I remember you.' *Philippians 1:3*

Leave a note of thanks for your postman or milkman or dustman to let them know how much you appreciate their work for you.

'Everyone, make a joyful noise to the Lord. Worship Him with gladness; come into His presence with singing.'

Psalms 100:1&2

Sing a song that makes you happy at the top of your lungs...or down the phone to a friend! Share the joy!

'When you hope, be joyful. When you suffer, be patient. When you pray, be faithful.' *Romans 12:12*

Find somebody to pray with today and share an Advent moment looking forward to Jesus coming again: he is our hope, our light, our joy.

'Not one sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it.'

Matthew 10:29

Give your garden birds something special to eat today: God cares for them and us! Enjoy their visits.

'For to us a child is born, a son is given...And he will be called...Prince of Peace.' *Isaiah 9:6*

Who can we bring peace to today? Can we be a calm presence to someone who is worried or anxious? Speak to somebody or listen to them or pray for them from home

'We have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him.' *Matthew 2:2*

Make or find a bright, sparkling star and hang it in a window for everyone to see. Every time you catch sight of it, worship the Lord!

'The trees of the field shall clap their hands.'

Isaiah 55: 12

Praise or thank someone with a round of applause for something they have done today.

'Peace I leave with you , my peace I give you.'

John 14:27

Carry the word 'peace' today, remembering the peace Jesus gives us each time you see it or touch it.

'Let your gentleness be evident to all, the Lord is near.' *Philippians 4-5*

Find something soft to hold or cuddle and pray about how you can be as gentle and comforting to others.

'Taste and see that the Lord is good.' *Psalms 34:8*

Eat something very slowly, savouring its taste. Thank God for the wonderful flavours of our world.

'And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour."' *Luke 1:46*

Find somewhere to be on your own and lift up your heart and voice to give praise to God, however things are for you today.

'You who bring good news lift up your voice with a shout and don't be afraid. 'Here is your God!''

Isaiah 40:9

God is with us. Don't be afraid! Go and give good news to someone in your life. Why not be brave and talk about Jesus?

'Be strong and courageous, for the Lord your God goes with you, he will never leave you or forsake you.'

Deuteronomy 31:6

What do you find daunting? Speaking to a stranger, forgiving somebody, praying with somebody? Take a wise risk today: God is with us!

'You will be His witness to all people of what you have seen and heard.' Acts 22:15

Take time to think for a while. What has God been doing in your life or saying to you recently? Tell somebody and rejoice together!

'People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'

1 Samuel 16:7

Show generosity of spirit by going out of your way to do a good turn for someone you know.

'Proclaim peace, bring good tidings, proclaim salvation, say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Based on Isaiah 52:7

Give somebody a sign of peace today e.g. phone or write a note, text, email, card to make some peace.

'There were shepherds in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night.' Luke 2:8

Give thanks for all those who have cared for us over the years and who still 'keep watch' tonight: friends, family, farmers, NHS, the Government.

'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.' Isaiah 9:2

As you light a candle, pray for those living in hardship and darkness that Christ's light and love will dawn on them.

'Mary wrapped the Baby Jesus in cloths and placed him in a manger.' Luke 2:7

Pray that the joy of the Christ child will be born in each one of us afresh this Christmas.

'...there was no room for them in the inn.' Luke 2:7

Go into each room of your home and give thanks for your safe space. Pray for all refugees that will find safety, food, warmth, sanitation and a home.

'I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said."

Luke 1: 38

As often as you can today pray, 'Here I am, Lord; I am yours.'

'The child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.' Luke 2:40

Let's pray for all the children in our lives: family, friends, church, school. May they hear God's call and know his love.